

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

1. Claim 5 has been amended to provide a subject for a verb which inadvertently was dangling after the last amendment. No change of substance has been made therein. Claim 17 has been amended to underscore the distinction over the sole reference which has been applied by the Examiner. The change is discussed in the review of that claim in light of the art rejection. No other changes have been made.

2. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 8, 9 and 11-16 have been allowed. As noted above, a minor change has been made in claim 5 without altering the scope thereof.

3. Claim 17, rejected as obvious under 35 USC 103 from LEADFORD et al, Patent 6,213,625, is believed to patentably distinguish over that reference, to be allowable and has therefore been retained and as to that claim, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The LEADFORD et al patent 6,213,625 does not disclose that the surface turned away from the lamp is formed with "outwardly directed rounded convexities". To be certain that the

Examiner understands that what applicant intends by this definition is not a conical, pyramidal, pointed or truncated structure but rather is a rounded dome-like configuration, the distinction in claim 17 has been enhanced by the statement that those convexities are defined by art segments (page 13, line 11 through the end of the specification).

The LEADFORD et al patent 6,213,625 discloses a lens plate with concavities ("female conical prisms 18"), column 6, lines 32, 33) on the side of the lens plate turned away from the lamp. In the center of each recess an outwardly directed apex 20 is provided which is shown as a cone or a ridge surrounding a conical recess (FIG. 9).

The reference does not have, as has been noted, outwardly directed rounded convexities and certainly does not have convexities defined by art segments as now recited.

Applicant does not understand, therefore, how the Examiner believes that the LEADFORD reference discloses the claimed invention except for the center to center spacing recited also in claim 17. She has not indicated where in LEADFORD the outwardly directed rounded convexities are formed and it is noted that the Examiner's identification of reference characters stops at the point that she has mentioned these outwardly directed rounded convexities.

If the Examiner is referring to the configurations between two recesses 18, these form pyramidal prisms which have been identified at 15 in FIG. 5. Neither prisms 15 nor the peaks

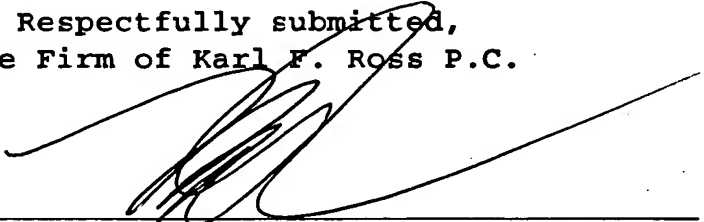
or pyramids 20 or the cones shown are outwardly directed convex structures which are curved in the sense of claim 17 or are defined by arc segments at their apexes.

As a consequence from a purely structural point of view, the convexities of claim 17 do not appear in LEADFORD et al at all. While the Examiner also does not indicate how she finds that the differences between what is claimed and what is shown by LEADFORD would be obvious, applicant must observe that the principles of LEADFORD are entirely different from those governing the lens plate of claim 17. The surface turned away from the lamp in LEADFORD is basically covered with concavities and certainly is so different from the surface turned away from the lamp required by claim 17 as to make it a teaching away from the invention rather than a suggestion of it.

Accordingly, claim 17 is believed to patentably distinguish over LEADFORD et al and is certainly not suggested thereby.

Claim 17 is therefore deemed to be allowable together with claims 5, 8, 9 and 11-16 and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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